Ivy on Exterior Walls.—The last thing I have to mention on the subject of damp relates to ivy on exterior walls of buildings, which may be said to belong more to the consideration of the architect than to my purpose; but as precaution is allowed to be better than cure, I trust it will not be thought irrelevant to notice its effect on external walls, which is, that if it does not entirely eradicate damp, it may be admitted to be a repellent placed on the exterior. I had my attention drawn to a case of this description, where damp had prevailed for a length of time in the walls of an apartment, but ivy having grown up to cover the opposite exterior side, the affected parts inside had become dry. The gentleman in whose house I observed the improved change accounted for it, I think, with much reason, namely, that the close overhanging pendant leaves prevented the rain or moisture from penetrating to the wall, contrary to all other trees which are trained for bearing fruit.—*The Paperhanger's and Upholsterer's Guide.*

Management of the Woods and Forests.—On the 10th October the new Act will come into force. Its object is to separate the management of the Woods and Forests from the direction of her Majesty's Works and the Public Buildings, and to make better provision for the management of same. The First Commissioner of Woods, &c. is to be First Commissioner of Public Works and Buildings, with a salary not exceeding 2,000*l.* a-year, and he may be a member of the House of Commons. The other commissioners of Woods and Forests are to continue to hold office, but not to be eligible to a seat in the Commons. The other officers to continue in their situations. Officers may be appointed to assist in the Public Works and Buildings. The management of royal parks is to vest in the Commissioner of Works. The First Commissioner of Public Works is to be an enclosure commissioner, a commissioner of Greenwich Hospital, and of Highland roads and bridges,—a commissioner for building new churches, and president of the Board of Health.

Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society.—The general annual meeting of members was held at Swaffham. The proceedings extended over three days. The first day commenced with the general meeting of the members in the Assembly-rooms in the morning, and an excursion to Castleacre in the afternoon; the evening being occupied with a conversazione. The two following days were devoted to excursions in the neighbourhood, particularly to Narburgh, Oxburgh, and Middleton. The meeting was fully attended, and a great many ladies were present.

Lincolnshire Architectural Society.—The autumnal meeting of this society was holden at Spalding, on Wednesday, the 10th inst., Sir Chas. Anderson, Bart., High Sheriff, in the chair. Papers were read on various subjects by the Rev. W. Moore, D.D., the Rev. Geo. Ayliffe Poole, and Dr. Cammack. The society visited several of the neighbouring churches on the two following days. At the general meeting the Rev. Geo. Ayliffe Poole, M.A., and Mr. Geo. Gordon Place, architect, were elected honorary members of the society.

The Present System of Builders Tendering.—Sir,—With reference to the great disparagement in builders' estimates, these must arise from the following difficulties. First, badly drawn specifications, and vagueness in their description, leaving builders to exercise their speculative imagination as to the architect's intentions. Secondly, the time allowed being rarely sufficient for correct estimates. Thirdly, the next a greater evil practised by builders themselves, jumping at estimates by the "rack of the eye and twist of the mouth." This abominable system is adopted by incompetent builders, and is alike disgraceful to tenderer and receiver, and only adopted by "horse dealers and *sharpers*" at our public fairs. Fourthly, builders habitually carrying into effect their dishonest policy of what is termed "spoiling it" for another opponent. Is not the above system detrimental to the builder's family and creditors? Proprietors may boast of their cheap erections, but has architect, merchant, builder, or mechanic benefited by this cheapness? It is poor consolation for a builder after a life of drudgery and toil, living like a pauper on diseased potatoes, rusty bacon, and bad cheese, gaining only the paltry gratification of seeing his name in your journal as the successful competitor for Mr. So-and-So's building and alteration.—Candidus.

The Disc Engine for Steam Boats.—Our readers may remember our description, some time since, of the patent disc-engine put up by Mr. Bishopp in *The Times* office. Messrs. Rennie have just now completed an engine on the same principle to drive a screw-propeller, in which some of the parts have been considerably simplified. The slips or grooves introduced in the first instance to make the cone steam-tight, have been got rid of with considerable advantage as respects noise and friction.

Monument to O'Connell.—It is stated that Mr. G. Petrie has designed a monument to be placed over the remains of Daniel O'Connell, in Glasnevin cemetery. The monument is to consist of a church on the ancient Irish model, a round tower, and an Irish stone cross of the most ancient form and character, and of the largest proportion. The material is to be the fine grained granite of Ireland.

North London Artisans' School of Design.—The committee have decided on appointing Mr. James K. Colling as master of geometrical drawing. There were altogether 8 candidates. We are glad to hear that H.R.H. Prince Albert has renewed his liberal subscription of 25*l.* to the funds of this Institution, which, however, are still not so large as they should be, considering the importance of its objects.

Birmingham School of Design.—We are glad to hear that Mr. Wallis has been appointed master of the school of design at Birmingham.

True Art: Loss through ignorance of it in Building.—We might perhaps be led to disregard the fact, that the knowledge of true Art is still discordant with the character of a people of high civilization, and the conviction and perception of its real beauties is as much a blank as would be the absence of a sense. The pursuit of Archæology is popular, graphic illustrations of buildings are widely disseminated, the ready use of the pencil is not confined to architects; but still, the power to recognise the beauties of Art in architecture, and the feeling of the important "mission" of Art universal, have no real existence. The want of any national recognition of the high educational value, and of the humanising and purifying influence of that Art,—the ignorance of this value, and of everything that relates to Art, and especially what relates to Architecture, displayed in Parliament whenever these matters are touched upon, is most melancholy to those who believe in something which transcends even that "mercantile value," which we are slowly appreciating,—a value infinite and pervading, and beyond what is dreamed of in all the philosophy of Oxford and Cambridge.—*From the Architectural Quarterly Review, June*, 1851.

"The Largest Hotel in the World."—I went first to the St. Charles Hotel, at New Orleans. The front consists of a huge granite portico, ascended by a flight of steps on each side, and supported on large granite columns. In the centre of the building a cupola rises, surmounted by a flag-staff. The building itself consists of five large wings diverging from the centre, one on each side of portico, parallel to the street, and the other three extending backwards, equidistant: each of these masses of building is uniform, and about four stories high. In this hotel they can make up from a thousand to eleven hundred beds, and during the season, the average number of occupants is about 700. The dining-room is an apartment with four rows of tables, capable of dining 1,500 people. On entering the portico, the visitor finds himself in a large hall, which occupies the whole of the first floor of the centre of the building, and is filled with chairs and tables, well supplied with newspapers and pamphlets. The side opposite the entrance is occupied by the bar, fitted up with plate glass, and all the necessary requisites. At the back of the bar is a large board covered with hooks, each numbered from one up to five or six hundred: these hooks are for the keys of the various rooms, which are always in the possession of the parties occupying them, unless they choose to have them hung up on the board, when they go out anywhere. In the hall were seated a number of men-servants, whose business it is to watch a large board, on which are hung innumerable bobs of brass (in six or eight parallel lines, each terminated by a bell), under as many numbers, and which, by their shaking, indicate the number of the room where the party is requiring attendance.—Of course, from the great number of lodgers, these bobs are going incessantly. At smaller hotels, where they have not servants constantly watching the bells, the barman pulls at a handle which communicates with a triangle hung somewhere outside, and by certain combinations of blows, indicates the number of the floor, and the room of that floor, where attendance is required. The ground-floor of the portico of the St. Charles is occupied by another bar for general customers, the entrance leading into the street. Under the portico in this hall are two or three shops.—*A Ramble from Sydney to Southampton.*

TENDERS

For an Elizabethan villa residence and offices (woodcrofte), to be built near Cuckfield, Sussex, for Mr. Charles Lennox Peel. Mr. J. B. Watson, architect.

Davey, Lewes	£3,100 0 0
Holland, London	2,539 0 0
Higgs, ditto	2,525 0 0
Carr, ditto	2,463 10 0
Wilkinson, ditto (accepted)	2,361 0 0

For rebuilding stabling, &c., at the Greyhound-yard, Holborn, for the Holborn Estate Charity. Messrs. Cadogan, architects.

Cubitt and Co.	£1,795 0 0
Hayward and Niton	1,779 0 0
Kelk	1,770 0 0
Macey	1,647 0 0
Nex	1,592 0 0
Lawrence and Sons	1,492 0 0
Chesterman and Son	1,468 0 0

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"E. W. T." (can scarcely have given the least consideration to what was actually said in the review referred to, otherwise he would not have jumped to so erroneous a conclusion as that "the truth" of "the law of gravitation" was "doubted" or questioned either by the reviewer or "Dr. Nichol, the Professor of Astronomy at Glasgow," who is quoted as an authority for the opinion of the *insufficiency* of that law *to explain certain important facts or phenomena* in the solar system), "O.," "J. W.," "G. E. P." (the subject has been often advocated in our pages), "A Builder," "J. B. W." (shall hear from us), "W. and Sons," "Zeta" (declined with thanks), "Messrs. B. and Co." (appear to have overlooked what has been already said), "G. G.," "T. W.," "A. B. C.," "P. S.," "M. P.," "C. H." (nothing yet from Italy), "Scotia" (address the parties), "R. L. S.," "G. H. C.," "J. B." Norwich, "K. and T." (apply to the manufacturers), "A Student" (there is, fortunately, no such *offer*. Do not waste your time upon a shadow).

"*Books and Addresses.*"—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

NOTICE.—All communications respecting *advertisements* should be addressed to the "Publisher," and not to the "Editor;" all other communications should be addressed to the Editor, and *not* to the Publisher.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

BUILDERS' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—FOURTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER, to be held at the London Tavern, on WEDNESDAY, October 29, 1851.

THOMAS GRISSELL, Esq., F.R.A., President, in the Chair

STEWARDS.

Stephen Ford, Esq.	H. W. Cooper, Esq.	G. John Nevill, Jun., Esq.
George Bird, Esq.	William Ellis, Esq.	Wm. Norris, Esq.
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Robt. L. Curtis, Esq.	George Head, Esq.	O. S. Smith, Esq.
Messrs. Collins and Stanbury, Birmingham.	J. N. Holding, Esq.	J. Seward, Jun., Esq.
Charles Belam, Esq.	Wm. Herbert, Esq.	Thos. Stirling, Esq.
N. Barnes, Esq.	Wm. Hutchens, Esq.	John Thorn, Esq.
Thomas Cosens, Esq.	Thos. Howard, Esq.	Isaac Unwin, Esq.
	Thos. Hunkley, Esq.	R. Watts, Jun., Esq.
	James Knight, Esq.	
	George Myers, Esq.	

Gentlemen desirous of promoting the interests of the Institution by becoming Stewards will be pleased to forward their names to the Secretary, at the office, 6, New Oxford-street.

A. G. HARRIS, Secretary.

MERCANTILE EDUCATION, French, German, English, Classical, Commercial, and Mathematical, near town. Terms, Six Guineas per quarter, which will include dancing, drawing, and books. The school is of established repute, having been for many years successfully conducted by the principal, with whom is originated.—Apply (if by letter, pre-paid) to the Rev. A. R. Baillie Coffee-house, Threadneedle-street, City.

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